

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 /032 W

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R 241026Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6050

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB,TH

SUBJ: SIAM INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL LABOR DISPUTE

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE SIAM-INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL MANAGER,

EMBASSY OFFICER LEARNED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES ARE CONTINUING, BUT MANAGEMENT IS PREPARING TO UNILATERALLY GRANT A GENEROUS PACKAGE OF PAY AND FRINGE BENEFIT INCREASES. ALTHOUGH THE NEW OFFER DOES NOT MEET THE DEMANDS OF UNION REPRESENTATIVES, MANAGEMENT FEELS IT IS A FAIR OFFER IN LIGHT OF THE EXISTING WAGE STRUCTURE AND THE APPARENT SATISFACTION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE HOTEL'S STAFF.

2. IT WAS ALSO LEARNED THAT NIKHOM CHANTHARAWITHUN, RTG LABOR DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR GENERAL, PERSONALLY TELEPHONED THE HOTEL MANAGER THE EVENING PRIOR TO A THREATENED STRIKE ON DECEMBER 4, 1975 AND ASKED THAT THE HOTEL MEET EMPLOYEE DEMANDS. NIKHOM REASONED THAT THE HOTEL WAS PROFITABLE AND FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS SHOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE IN. MANAGEMENT FELT THE EMPLOYEE DEMANDS WERE UNREASONABLE AND CAPITULATION ECONOMICALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

3. COMMENT: THE PATHETIC INTERVENTION OF THE HARRIED DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE LABOR DEPARTMENT IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF MANY OF THAILAND'S LABOR WOES. THE VERY FACT HE TRIED TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN A RELATIVELY MINOR DISPUTE DEMONSTRATES THE AD HOC APPROACH TAKEN TO SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. HIS IRRATIONAL PLEAS TO MANAGE-

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MENT IN A VERY COMPETITIVE BUSINESS DEMONSTRATES THE LABOR

DEPARTMENT'S DISREGARD FOR THE BASIC LAWS OF ECONOMICS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR STRIKES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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